

REMARKS

In this office action the Examiner provisionally rejected claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. 101 as claiming the same invention as that of claims 1-11 of co-pending Application No. 10/779,310. This is a provisional double patenting rejection since the conflicting claims have not in fact been patented.

Applicant believes that the present application and the co-pending application have claims 1 which correspond to completely different inventions.

According to the present application, the retaining member comprising a number of elastically deformable blades are secured to the clamping-body (12 in the co-pending application and the present application).


In the co-pending application 10/779,310 (see enclosed claims as originally filed) the elastically deformable blades are secured to the tool clamp (20 in the co-pending application and the present application).

In view of the discussion supra it is believed that claims 1-6 are patentable and that this application is now in condition for allowance and such allowance by the Examiner is respectfully requested.

In the event the Examiner has further difficulties with the examination and/or allowance of the application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned agent for applicant by telephone at (412) 380-0725, if necessary, to resolve any

remaining questions or issues by interview and/or Examiner's
Amendment as to any matter.

Respectfully submitted,
James Ray and Associates

By 
Amos Bartoli
Registration No. 42,299
Agent for Applicant

JAMES RAY & ASSOCIATES
2640 Pitcairn Road
Monroeville, PA 15146
Tel. (412) 380-0725
Fax (412) 380-0748

Co-pending Applic 10/779,310

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WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A fixing system for fixing a bending tool, said tool having two fixing surfaces for fixing by clamping, and a retaining groove situated beneath one of the fixing surfaces, the groove presenting a top edge and a bottom edge, said system comprising :
 - a clamping body having a first clamping surface suitable for co-operating with one of the fixing surfaces of the tool,
 - a pivotally-mounted tool clamp having a second clamping surface, said clamp being capable of taking up a tool-clamping first position in which said fixing surfaces of the tool are clamped between said first and second clamping surfaces, and a tool mounting and/or dismounting second position in which said second clamping surface of the clamp is spaced apart from said first clamping surface of the body; and
 - a tool-retaining member comprising a plurality of blades, each blade comprising:
 - a first elastically-deformable branch secured in part to the clamp;
 - a second elastically-deformable branch directed upwards and having an end suitable for penetrating into said retaining groove, and a portion suitable for co-operating with the bottom edge of said retaining groove when the tool pivots; and
 - at least one angled portion located between said first and second elastically-deformable branches.
2. A fixing system according to claim 1, wherein:
 - when said clamp is brought into said tool-dismounting second position, said end of the second branch remains engaged in said retaining groove; and
 - when said clamp is in the tool-dismounting second position, the assembly constituted by the two branches is suitable for deforming under the effect of the pivoting of the tool so that the end of the second branch becomes disengaged from said retaining groove.

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3. A fixing system according to claim 1, wherein said second branch comprises a main portion and said end of the second branch forms an angle with said main portion.
- 5 4. A fixing system according to claim 1, wherein said top edge of the retaining groove is chamfered.
- 10 5. A fixing system according to claim 1, wherein:
when the clamp is brought into its clamping position, said retaining member exerts a force having a vertical component on the tool.
- 15 6. A fixing system according to claim 1, wherein the end of said second branch comes into abutment against the top edge of said retaining groove whatever the position of the clamp.
- 20 7. A fixing system according to claim 1, wherein said clamp has an outside surface opposite from said second clamping surface, and said first branch has an end which is secured to said outside surface of the clamp.
- 25 8. A fixing system according to claim 1, wherein the end of said second branch has a top edge of rounded shape.
- 30 9. A fixing system according to claim 1, wherein said clamp is pivotally-mounted around a pivot axis and has an inside surface provided with a groove, said groove extending along the direction of said clamp pivot axis and receiving the end of the second branch while the tool pivots.
- 35 10. A fixing system according to claim 1, wherein said retaining member is made out of elastically-deformable sheet material with said blades being mutually aligned.